



The University of Texas System

Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.

Office of the Chancellor

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August 23, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn

Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management

ATTN: Ms. Anna Shopen

439 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your interest in the fine quality of research performed by the faculty and staff of The University of Texas System. It has come to my attention that some of our individual institutions have received similar letters from you, and I have been assured that they will be responding accordingly.

Scientists from around our academic campuses and health institutions have made phenomenal contributions to their fields of science and healthcare, and I am exceedingly proud of their accomplishments. Just to name a few, University of Texas System scientists have expanded our knowledge of nanotechnology, medical device engineering, DNA cancer receptors, and biological and chemical agents used by terrorists. In addition, the U. T. System ranks fourth among U. S. universities for number of patents awarded in 2005.

Much of this work would not have been possible without the federal government's vast support of research and development at our campuses. For Fiscal Year 2005, U. T. System researchers received \$1.0534 billion in research funding from the federal government, less than 10 percent of this amount from Congressionally directed sources.

Regardless of the source of these federal research funds, the value to the taxpayer is significant. While it would be a true challenge to place a dollar value on the expansion of knowledge, the economic impact of research expenditures can be calculated. In her 2005 study, "The Impact of the State Higher Education System on the Texas Economy," the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts determined that each dollar of federal research money brought to Texas by university scientists translates into an economic impact of \$3.32 to the state.

While several of our component institutions do receive Congressionally directed research funding, the System has been the recipient of such funding only once from the year 2000 to the present. During Fiscal Year 2005, the U. T. System received \$250,000 for a public policy

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The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

The University of Texas
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The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio

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Health Center at Tyler

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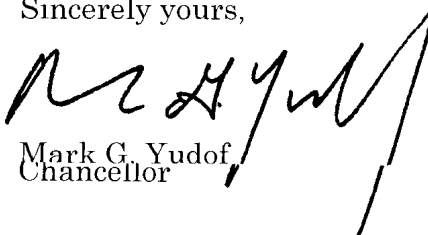
program operated by our Archer Center. The money is administered by the Department of Education, and I can assure you that they have been good stewards of that responsibility.

The money has been used to bolster the operations of the Archer Center's Washington D.C. fellowship program. This program allows upper-division undergraduates from our academic campuses to participate in an intense semester of academics and internship in our nation's capitol. The goal of the program is to instill in our undergraduates the desire to participate in government processes and to convince them that no matter what career path they choose, incorporating public service into that career can be a productive and rewarding experience – a goal, which you, as one of the few physicians serving our country in Congress, can surely appreciate.

As I mentioned earlier, the federal government's investment in basic scientific research is crucial to our advancement of the science, engineering, and healthcare fields. And, in conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what the U. T. System is doing to leverage that investment. Just this month, the Board of Regents endorsed an unprecedented investment of \$2.56 billion to boost competitiveness in key scientific areas at our campuses. These funds will be used to increase the research capacity of our scientists by more than three million gross square feet. This investment is the largest commitment to science and technology infrastructure that has been made by a higher education system in the country since the National Academies' recent call for a comprehensive effort to bolster U. S. competitiveness in its report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof
Chancellor

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